takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on the Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side.

Evacuation of people from Lebanon

†2904. SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:
MS. SUSHILATIRIYA:
SHRIMOTILALVORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a battalion of 4-Sikh Regiment was sent to Southern Lebanon under a peace mission of the United Nations Organisation six months ago;

(b) whether Lance Naik Rajinder Singh belonging to the aforesaid battalion had got seriously injured in the bloody war between Israeli troops and Hizbullah;

(c) the number of soldiers of this battalion who have been safely evacuated; and

(d) the number of Indians in Lebanon at present and the arrangement made to evacuate them to safe places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIE. AHAMMED): (a) India has contributed an Infantry Battalion and staff officers to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since 1998. Currently, 672 military personnel from the 4 Sikh Regiment are deployed in Lebanon in UNIFIL.

(b) Lance Naik Rajinder Singh from the above Regiment was moderately injured on July 16,2006.

(c) No Indian soldiers serving in the UNIFIL have been evacuated.

(d) At the outbreak of the recent hostilities in Lebanon, approximately 12,000 Indian nationals were resident in Lebanon. Government launched well-coordinated efforts to ensure the evacuation of those of our nationals desirous of leaving Lebanon. 1782 Indian nationals have been evacuated from Lebanon to India so far.

Approximately 10,000 Indians who opted to stay on in Lebanon remain there and there are no plans as of now to evacuate them.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.